on mutual respect and understanding of each other's security concerns and priorities.

Women officers in IPS

2673. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of serving women officers belonging to the Indian Police Service;

(b) whether requests from State Governments for additional women police officers could not be entertained because of non-availability of personnel; and

(c) whether in view of the increasing tempo of crimes against women, Government are considering a crash programme for recruiting additional women in the IPS?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) There are 102 women IPS officers serving in various States.

(b) There has not been any request from State Governments for additional women IPS officers.

(c) There is no direct co-relation between the rate of crime against women and the strength of women IPS officers, as crimes against women are on account of a multiplicity of socio-economic factors.

Barbed fencing along Indo-Bangladesh Border

2674. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken for provision of barbed fencing and flood lights along the Indo-Bangladesh border;

(b) the measures taken by Government to prevent infiltration of Bangladesh is into India; and

(c) the total area of Border in kilometre length with Bangladesh and the number of police/security personnel posted in border areas; the per kilometre numebr of security personnel posted in border areas?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) With a view to preventing infiltration by Bangladeshi nationals into India, the Government of India have been implementing the Indo-Bangladesh Border Roads and Fence Project since 1986. The approved project components include construction of 2784 kms of road, 23.8 kms of bridge and 896 kms of fencing along the Indo-Bangladesh Border. The sanctioned cost estimate of the project is Rs. 831.17 crores. As on September 30, 1998, 2116 kms of road 16.5 kms of Bridges and 789 kms. of fencing have been completed at a cost of Rs. 754.6 crores.

(b) In additioin to the construction of border roads and barbed wire fencing, the Government have taken a number of measures to prevent infiltration of Bangladesh is into India. These include raising of additional battalions of Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between the border outposts, intensification of patrolling both on the land and the reverine border, accelerated programme of construction of border roads and fencing, increase in the number of outpost towers, provision of surveillance equipments etc. The matter has also been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh on various occasions. The progress of these measures is reviewed regularly at various levels.

(c) The Indo-Bangladesh border is approximately 4096.70 kms long. 37 battalions of the Border Security Force are manning the border at present. Average deployment of security personnel along the border works out to 3.38 persons per kilometer.